

In the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph to the specification on page 6 in between existing paragraphs [0017] and [0018]:

Figure 2A depicts a magnified top view of an anchoring plate having a locking mechanism located in the openings on said plate.

Please substitute the following paragraph at the bottom of page 7 to the top of page 8 for the existing paragraph [0021]:

Figure 2 depicts the expandable surgical retractor in an open, or expanded, configuration. Similar to Figure 1, the expandable surgical retractor has a first end 1 and a second end 2. The second end 2 contains the distal receptacle or end receptacle 3, which accepts the desired number of flexible wires 4. The distal receptacle may be designed with or without a locking mechanism. Situated between the distal receptacle 3 and first end are a multiple of fenestrated anchoring plates 5, plates with a number of openings, which provide stability, guidance and anchoring for the flexible wires 4 and a fiber optic central rod 6. Here, the flexible wires 4 have been locked to the anchoring plate 5, 5a with a locking mechanism 9 (not shown) (shown in Figure 2A) and the anchoring plates 5, 5a have been advanced distally (the surgeon being proximal), thereby providing a retrograde expansion of the flexible wires 4. As the anchoring plates 5, 5a are advanced distally; the moment of force is translated proximally from the area of greatest resistance, the end receptacle 3, to the first area of proximal flexibility, the flexible wires 4. The degree of retraction is thus in the control of the surgeon. Again, the central rod 6 may be made of fiber optic material allowing enhanced visualization about the retracted areas of tissue in the surgical field.